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Sloat Blvd. Highrise Plan Raises Many Housing Issues

By Thomas K. Pendergast

The controversial proposal to build a skyscraper across the street from the San Francisco Zoo has become the latest example of much bigger housing issues and how best to confront them.

The bulk of the project, located at 2700 Sloat Blvd., has been growing the last few years and whereas an earlier proposal to put a 12-story building where the Sloat Garden Center now sits inspired an online petition against it by local residents, the latest plan for a 50-story-tall building with 712 housing units has made national headlines.

At a July 26 meeting of the SF Board of Appeals, the immediate issue was about a 2018 decision and the resulting "letter of determination" by a SF Planning Department zoning administrator – a document issued by the zoning administrator that offers guidance regarding zoning regulations, the planning code or development proposals – and whether the zoning administrator erred or abused his discretion in his interpretation of Planning Code sections addressing the measurement of bulk and plan dimensions.

"It errs by creating a new bulk limit that simply does not exist under the existing code," attorney Melinda Sarjapur, who represents the developers, CH-Planning, told the Board. "It's inconsistent with how the City has applied the code for decades. It's contrary to the intent of the bulk code and the General Plan policies, and finally, it will violate state law,"

"The interpretation rises to abuse of discretion because it goes beyond providing guidance to creating a new bulk

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Nomad Cyclery Reborn as Barbary Coast

George Didescu worked as a mechanic and manager at Nomad Cyclery, a legendary bicycle shop on Irving Street at 27th Avenue. When local legend Roger Cook passed away, Didescu bought the business and renamed it Barbary Coast Cyclery, a nod to San Francisco's wilder days. The new name was inspired by the folk tale that the building was once a brothel. The multiple small bedrooms upstair lends credence to the story. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

By Jayson Wechter

The bicycle wheels that were rolling in and out of Nomad Cyclery on Irving Street for more than 50 years came to an abrupt and unexpected stop last September when its longtime owner, Roger Cook, died of pancreatic cancer.

The Sunset District shop closed with no public notice, though a bouquet of flowers taped to its door with a note reading "RIP Roger" offered some explanation. For months, it was closed and frozen in time, its stock of new bikes arranged in neat rows on the floor or hanging from hooks on the ceiling, their reflective tires glowing at night when struck by the headlamps of passing cyclists or cars.

In August, to the delight of Sunset residents and bicyclists, the shop was reborn with a new name, Barbary Coast Cyclery, and new owner George Didescu, who had worked as a mechanic and manager at Nomad, bought the shop's inventory from

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Fire Impacts Progress Hardware, Inner Sunset Institution Since 1948

By Jonathan Farrell

More than 100 firefighters worked to extinguish a three-alarm fire that broke out in the 700 block of Irving Street on Aug. 8. Four buildings were impacted, including one on Eighth Avenue.

One business that was involved in the blaze was the Progress Hardware store, located at 724 Irving St.

"The fire was dispatched at approximately 8:11 p.m. and drew a three-alarm response," said SF Fire Department (SFFD) Public Information Officer Justin Schorr.

The cause of the conflagration is under investigation.

"The fire was ultimately under control by 9:40 p.m.," he said.

Schorr said some residents were displaced.

"This fire involved three buildings and exterior damage to a fourth structure did occur, causing immediate displacement of seven individuals. No injuries were reported," he said.

Schorr said SFFD fire investigators turned the building back over to the owners within 24 hours of the time of dispatch.

According to various news reports, Progress Hardware owner Joe Blair and his son Randy were watching a Giants game on TV at 8:30 p.m. that Tuesday night when they were alerted that the store was on fire.

Progress Hardware has been in the Inner Sunset since 1948. It is unknown when the store will reopen.

Blair and his family took over the business in 2000 and they have worked to maintain the continuity of quality items, service and commitment.

"We are honored to be a part of the Inner Sunset community and want to thank you for your continued support," Blair said.

Progress Hardware provides essential services, such as locksmithing – including making keys – and supplies like lumber, glass and much more.

"We are members of the Ace Hardware co-op, but chose to remain independent," explained Blair. "We feel it's important to buy from a variety of suppliers, so that we're able to offer our customers more products at competitive prices."

Blair told reporters on Aug. 15 that he became acquainted with the long-established hardware store when he was with a plumbing company. He liked the family-owned atmosphere and the staff's attention to details and customer service dedication so much that he became an employee. Then, over time, he bought the business from the previous owners.

Neighborhood residents were quick to respond.

"We go to this store for all our hardware needs," said local resident Sharat Rad-

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Looking Back

Kinen Carvala

GG Park on Film

Golden Gate Park has been the backdrop in a lot of movies. Pictured above is the Rideout Fountain in the Music Concourse which was in San Francisco native Ali Wong's 2019 film, "Always Be My Maybe." In the background is the California Academy of Sciences which, along with the Rideout Fountain, played a part in the 1980 Richard Dreyfus film "The Competition," among other films. ***Photo by Michael Durand.***

What's an example of a movie filmed in Golden Gate Park that clearly showed the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum building in its second version before it was rebuilt in 2005?

Were it not for the California State Legislature approving the creation of Golden Gate Park on April 4, 1870, San Francisco's westside sand dunes might not have been transformed into a movie director's delight.

The following examples of movies filmed in Golden Gate Park for some or many scenes include various genres: neo-noir, romantic comedy, biography, comedy-mystery, romantic drama, crime drama, mockumentary, drama, noir and silent.

The noir genre in the view of Eddie Muller, expressed in an article on the Turner Classic Movies website, presents the main character "acting out of desperate desire, does something he (or she) knows is wrong, but they do it anyway … and reap the dire consequences." The noir genre's heyday was in the mid-20th century.

"Girl in Golden Gate Park" is a 2021 independent neo-noir film starring Erin Mei-Ling Stuart and Kim Jiang Dubaniewicz and directed by J.P. Allen. Golden Gate Park locations in the film include the Polo Field, Big Rec. handball courts, Stow Lake and the Music Concourse, with the Cider Press, Turtle Sundial and de Young Museum visible. Filming was completed just before COVID-19, according to writer Noma Faingold at richmondsunsetnews.com.

"Always Be My Maybe," a 2019 romantic comedy starring Ali Wong and Randall Park and directed by Nahnatchka Khan, includes a stroll past the Rideout Fountain in the Music Concourse.

"The Wedding Planner," a 2001 romantic comedy starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey, was directed by Adam Shankman. The film uses the interior of the Japanese Tea Garden. The Spreckels Temple of Music sequence features a wedding band playing.

"Play It Again, Sam," a 1972 romantic comedy starring Woody Allen and Diane Keaton, was directed by Herbert Ross. It shows the leads walking among green benches in the Music Concourse.

"The Pursuit of Happyness" is a 2006 biographical drama starring Will and Jaden Smith. It was directed by Gabriele Muccino and shows the leads in the Koret Children's Quarter, also known as Children's Playground, before the playground was remodeled and reopened in 2007.

"Charlie Chan and the Curse of the Dragon Queen," a 1981 comedy-mystery film starring Peter Ustinov and a large cast and directed by Paul Baxley includes horse-and-buggy chases and archery scenes through Golden Gate Park, including a shot on JFK Drive approaching Ocean Beach. The Association of Asian/Pacific American Artists (A.A.P.A.A) in a document titled "Charlie Chan Haunts Again !!!" criticized the film for white actors playing Asian characters, comparing the practice to blackface and objecting to Charlie Chan being stereotypically portrayed.

"The Competition," is a 1980 romantic drama starring Richard Dreyfuss and Amy Irving and directed by Joel Oliansky. It is a story about competing pianists at the California Academy of Sciences (which was used as the competition venue). In the Music Concourse, the Rideout Fountain, Spreckels Temple of Music and the de Young Museum are also visible. The Academy of Sciences was renovated in 2005-2008 and the de Young Museum was later reconstructed in 2005.

"Dirty Harry," a 1971 crime drama starring Clint Eastwood and directed by Don Siegel, uses Kezar Stadium, which was remodeled in 1989 and is not the same as the stadium currently on the site. The film was added to the U.S. National Film Registry in 2012.

"Take The Money and Run," a 1969 mockumentary starring Woody Allen and Janet Margolin and directed by Woody Allen, features the leads near Spreckels Lake.

"Petulia" is a 1968 drama starring Julie Christie and George C. Scott and directed by Richard Lester. The film features a rendezvous in the Japanese Tea Garden before moving on to the Music Concourse, where the Spreckels Temple of Music and the pre-renovated Academy of Sciences are visible, as pointed out at the blog Reel SF.

"Golden Gate Girl," a 1941 drama Chinese-language film made in San Francisco and exhibited in Chinatown, was reviewed in "Variety" at the time, which named Golden Gate Park as one of the locations of the film. The film was directed by Esther Eng, "the first and, for many decades, only female Chinese film director," according to "Variety" in 1995. Bruce Lee debuted in the film as a two-month-old, according to Matthew Polly's biography. Summer 2023 is the 50th anniversary of Bruce Lee's first starring role in a Hollywood movie, "Enter the Dragon" and his sudden death.

"The Lady from Shanghai," a 1947 noir film starring Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth and directed by Orson Wells, features the leads in the Steinhart Aquarium of the California Academy of Sciences (prior to its remodeling in 2005-2008). The film was released after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943. The film features many Chinese extras, in Chinatown scenes on the street, in the Chinese Telephone Exchange (now East West Bank) and a performance of Chinese opera in a theater. The film was added to the U.S. National Film Registry in 2018. The colloquial nickname "Frisco" is used for San Francisco in the movie. Since the late 19th century, "Frisco" has been used and also derided as vulgar, according to references compiled by Dave Gilson for "Mother Jones," though Vinnee Tong writing for KQED in 2017 noted that some locals still say "Frisco," including the owners of Frisco Tattoo in the Mission District.

"Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall," a 1923 silent film starring Mary Pickford and directed by Marshall Neilan, was filmed in Golden Gate Park according to the American Film Institute.

"A Jitney Elopement" is a 1915 silent film with Charlie Chaplin both as director and star in a car chase in front of the Murphy Windmill and on a dirt road that would later become the Great Highway in 1929, according to Rae Alexandra writing for KQED. The Murphy Windmill underwent restoration in 2002.

Find an archive of Looking Back columns about some of the locations and monuments seen in the above movies at richmondSunsetNews.com.

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Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com
RichmondSunsetNews.com
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief: Michael Durand
Editor: Paul Kozakiewicz
Writers: Linda Badger, Erin Bank, Noma Faingold, Jonathan Farrell, Asha Ingram, Judith Kahn, Clarisse Kim, Beth Lederer, Thomas K. Pendergast, Jack Quach, Kate Quach
Photographers: Tyrone Bartoli, Noma Faingold, Thomas K. Pendergast, Kate Quach, Alyson Wong
Columnists: Kinen Carvala, Supervisor Joel Engardio, Judge Quentin L. Kopp (ret.), John M. Lee, Assemblymember Phil Ting
Cartoonist: Paul Kilduff **Bookkeeper:** Sue Kozakiewicz
Intern: Michael D. Wong
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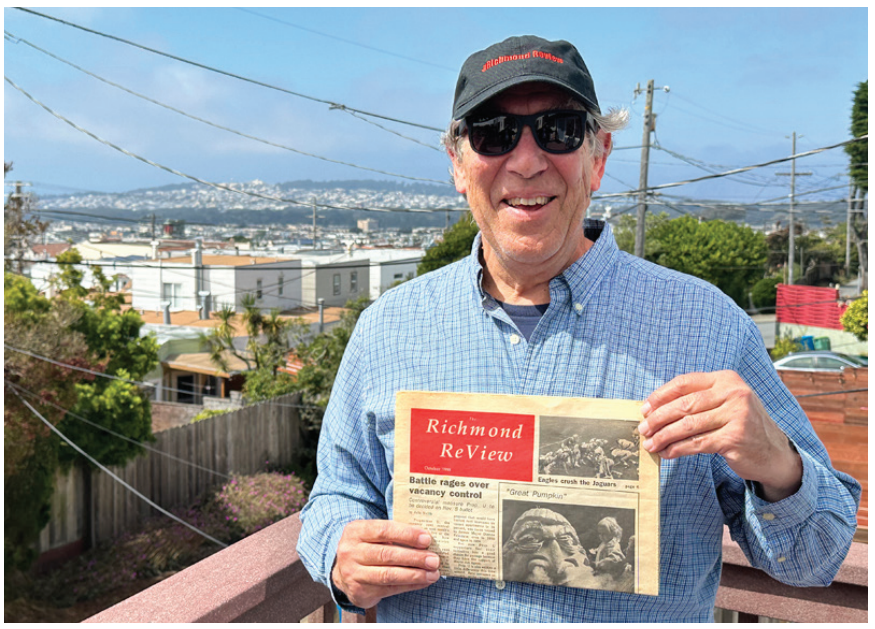
Richmond Review, Sunset Beacon's Sister Newspaper, Marks 35th Anniversary

By Asha Ingram

With this October marking the 35th anniversary of the Richmond Review, Paul Kozakiewicz sure has a lot to look back on as the original owner. It is impossible to look back on the history of the newspaper without his insight. He was, and still is today, an integral part of the paper.

Kozakiewicz started the Richmond Review newspaper in 1988 to serve the community. For the next 30 years – with significant help from his wife, Sue – he would run the Richmond Review and the Sunset Beacon, the newspaper he and partner Chris Rivers started in 1991.

Since its start, the Richmond Review has covered just about every kind of news and feature story in the neighborhood. Throughout the years the paper has also been a vehicle for citizens and organizations to share their points of view and ideas.



Paul Kozakiewicz holds a copy of the first edition of the Richmond Review, the newspaper he founded in 1988. A few years later, Kozakiewicz co-created the Sunset Beacon. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Some of the important issues covered in the Richmond Review over the decades are: The University of California's attempt to put "wet labs" at its Laurel Hills campus; extensive coverage of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake; the conversion of The Presidio from an Army post to a national park; the rise of district elections; the fight over "Richmond Specials;" changes to a multitude of transit lines; the mural controversy at George Washington High School; the lack of adequate water lines for firefighting after an earthquake and fire; numerous changes at Golden Gate Park, including the recent banning of vehicles along the eastern end of John F. Kennedy Drive; and the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on local businesses.

"We have always been a training ground for budding journalists," Kozakiewicz said. "We have been blessed with some really good photographers over the years, like Philip Liborio Gangi, and writers, including Thomas K. Pendergast, covering our neighborhood."

One of Kozakiewicz's biggest catalysts for taking on a monthly paper was the creation of desktop publishing around 1985. The new technology made publishing newspapers much quicker and more efficient. It also helped burgeoning business owners like Kozakiewicz to be able to produce the paper without a lot of traditional labor, like a typesetter and layout production person, expenses that were required with traditional publishing.

"It was really the thing that catapulted the smaller guys in the business," he said. "At one time in the late '90s, we had 17 neighborhood newspapers in the City. Now we're down to seven."

Even though the Richmond District to some people seems like a quieter part of the City, the paper was never short of stories to cover. Kozakiewicz said there was always something interesting going on in the neighborhood.

"When we first started the paper, they were like 'What are you going to write about in the sleepy little Richmond?' But there's always been plenty to write about," Kozakiewicz recalled. "We're a melting pot of all kinds of people. It's an ideal location and the commercial corridors are fantastic."

It did not always come easy running two papers that were published monthly. With so many moving parts, Kozakiewicz had to be nimble to help the paper succeed.

"Every day was a challenge, that's why it was such a great job," he explained.

Getting advertisements also required a bit of effort. When the paper was first established, people were not always so eager to get their ad in the paper.

"I knocked on doors and walked up and down the streets, talked to people and built relationships," Kozakiewicz recalled. "Our local businesses have always supported the neighborhood."

In 2019, Kozakiewicz retired and sold both papers to Michael Durand, the current publisher and editor of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and RichmondSunsetNews.com website. Kozakiewicz still copy edits both papers every month, but Durand has been carrying on the journalistic tradition. Kozakiewicz's wife, Sue, is still handling the bookkeeping for both papers.

"Michael is a great editor. We're lucky to have him covering all of the important news in the neighborhood."

While merchants have always supported the papers, the pandemic of the last three years has hurt the local business community. To offset the loss of advertising revenue, the paper launched

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New Bay Wheels Bike-share Stations Installed Throughout Golden Gate Park

By Thomas K. Pendergast

A dozen new bike-share stations were rolled out throughout Golden Gate Park last month to fill gaps in the overall network of Lyft's Bay Wheels, according to city officials at the opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 7.

The original pilot program for the bike-share program started in 2013. It was expanded in 2017 and eventually included at least 320 stations and 4,500 bicycles. It has since been rebranded as Bay Wheels, according to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

"These bike stations are going to help fill a critical gap in the Bay Wheels network, allowing people to use bikes every day to commute, to go visit friends and family and to move around the City far easier than can be moved in a car," SF Recreation and Park Department General Manager Phil Ginsburg said at the ceremony.

The newest version of Bike Share will be integrated with the Clipper Card system and feature a Bike Share for All program, in an effort to ensure everyone has access to the network.

"I'm thrilled to welcome the new Bay Wheels stations to Golden Gate Park which will expand ways for people to enjoy one of San Francisco's most beautiful spaces," said SF Mayor London Breed in a press release. "I want to thank Lyft for their partnership to invest in San Francisco to help create a safer, more sustainable and welcoming city to get around."

According to the mayor's office, the addition of the Golden Gate Park bike share stations builds on Bay Wheels' latest expansion to the Sunset neighborhood south of the park, which was announced in May. The five classic bike share stations and seven virtual stations now stretch from east of the Conservatory of Flowers to the westernmost edge of the park near Ocean Beach.

Virtual or "stationless" bike sharing does not rely on fixed docking stations. Stationless bikes would be parked at a bike rack or in the "furniture zone" of the sidewalk, which is the section of the sidewalk between the curb and pedestrian through zone where bike racks and other typical amenities – such as lighting, benches and utility poles – are usually located.

The "classic" stations will be installed on Pompei Circle (at the Dahlia Garden east of the Conservatory of Flowers); Martin Luther King Drive at Seventh Avenue; JFK Drive at Eighth Avenue and Music Concourse Drive; JFK Drive at Ocean Beach and at Spreckels Lake.

The "virtual" stations will be located on JFK Drive at Lloyd Lake; JFK Drive at Chain of Lakes Drive; MLK Drive at Chain of Lakes Drive; Bowling Green Drive north of the parking lot; Stow Lake; JFK Drive at Lindley Meadow near 30th Avenue and JFK Drive at the Service Road between Speedway Meadow/Hellman Hollow and Marx Meadow.

"As a District 4 supervisor, I'm excited because I want all the people visiting Golden Gate Park and getting on these bikes to come and explore the Sunset District, which is just adjacent to the park, and to discover all of our amazing restaurants and interesting places in the Sunset," said District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio.

On Aug. 7 in Golden Gate Park, officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch a new bike-share program, including (L-R) SFMTA Director of Streets Division Tom Maguire, Recreation and Park Department General Manager Phil Ginsburg, District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio, Lyft General Manager Kanika Agrawal and San Francisco Bicycle Coalition Director of Advocacy Claire Amable. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

"As a city supervisor, I have to work on a lot of daunting issues in San Francisco, so it's great to be here to celebrate some joy," he said. "Because, San Francisco, we have a lot to work on, but we have a lot of joy in this city and we're going to create more of it. And this is the start of creating our best San Francisco."

The Bike Share for All campaign launched in early 2016 and features: A one-time $5 annual membership, then $5 per month in the second year with a small additional cost for e-bikes; bikes that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year in San Francisco; rides extended from 30-minute maximums to 60 minutes; in-person enrollment at select locations and no credit or debit card requirements.

"Our organization believes bike-share is a key component to our transportation system," the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition director of advocacy Claire Amable said at the Golden Gate Park station opening. "It offers the convenience of biking without the hassle of worrying about locking and storage. It opens the door to a new audience of people who either didn't have access to bikes in the past, don't have space for bikes in their homes currently or don't consider biking as a convenient option.

"More people on bikes means fewer cars on the road, more space on Muni and a greener San Francisco," she said. "It makes so much sense for bike-share stations to be here on JFK Promenade and in Golden Gate Park. Now no one needs to get hit with that $25 penalty fee and they get to end their ride at one of the most beautiful parks in our City,"

In 2022, according to the mayor's office, there were 237,000 unique riders across the five cities in which Bay Wheels operates; San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville and San Jose. In San Francisco alone, there were 2.4 million rides.

"Every additional ride that people make on a bike in San Francisco reduces air pollution, reduces traffic congestion and gives cyclists an opportunity to get some of that joy that Supervisor Engardio was talking about," said SFMTA Director of Streets Division Tom Maguire. "We want to see more of that kind of sustainable joyful transportation and we're grateful for the partnership of Rec. and Park, the supervisor and Lyft for bringing that to reality."

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Real Estate

John M. Lee

What Will Fall Bring Us?

As a student of real estate my entire life, 2023 holds special interest for me as this prolonged real estate cycle has changed. Normally in September I write about what we can expect in our fall real estate market because it marks the start of our second selling season of the year in San Francisco.

Our two best seasons are spring, from February to June, and then fall, after Labor Day, from September to Thanksgiving. Our summers are normally slow because many people take vacations, which means that buyers, sellers and agents are out of town, delaying the buying or selling decision until they get back. There are also many weekend events, such as the SF Marathon and Outside Lands Music Festival, during the summer that takes the focus off of real estate.

Our July median sales price for single-family homes in San Francisco is at $1.55 million, down 16.2% year over year! This number started turning negative last year. The sales volume is down about 30%. Months of inventory is at three months, meaning it will take about three months to sell all the listings currently on the market, still a fairly low number.

In many ways, this is a confusing market with many experts disagreeing on where this market will go. On one side, you have the pessimist who is saying that we just started a major correction. Our market has gone straight up the last 12 years and this type of appreciation is not sustainable. With inflation back, interest rates still inching up and the stock market uncertain, we are looking at a further price decline.

On the other side, you have experts arguing that our economy is still doing well, our unemployment is down, people are recovering from the pandemic, inflationary pressure appears to be moderating, interest rates have gone up, but the Feds have signaled the end is near, and consumer confidence is up.

Also, since the mortgage crisis, banks have tightened up their underwriting. And with the appreciation of the last 12 years, people have more equity in their homes and can sustain a larger price decline. So even if prices do drop, homeowners do not need to sell and will ride the cycle out. This suggests that even though there is pressure on home prices, it will not be too severe.

Both sides have legitimate reasons for their beliefs. Nobody has said the appreciation of a few years ago is around the corner yet.

This brings the question of what will happen in the fall? I think it will be more of the same as the real estate market does not stop. There will always be people who buy and people who sell. Because of the lower prices and many sellers have low mortgage rates either because they recently purchased the property or refinanced it, they are reluctant to sell and thus this will keep the listing inventory low. Prices are dependent on the supply and demand balance, so this helps to stabilize prices and prevent them from falling too much.

A larger area of concern is the investment market where the interest rates are higher and insurance is difficult to get; plus, the property most likely is under rent control, limiting revenue increases. Many are lingering on the market searching for the correct price point in today's market, and I believe that there will be buying opportunities in this segment of the market.

What does this mean for the consumer? The best advice is to work with a real estate professional who is on top of the market to provide you with the insights necessary to fulfill your goals in this changing marketplace.

For sellers, though the prices have dropped, these are still very high prices we are looking at in San Francisco. With buyers still out there, if priced and marketed correctly, you should still be able to sell at a good price. For buyers, I recommend proceeding with caution. Currently prices are still high, but you are buying at lower prices than previous years and when the interest rates do come down, you can always refinance the loan and come out further ahead. I urge buyers to consider all factors before purchasing.

For people who are looking to trade up, this market is presenting an interesting opportunity to reposition your real estate portfolio for the long term as competition for properties is less than before.

This will be an interesting fall selling season and should give us a taste of how the market will be going into 2024!

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email at johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of John M. Lee's columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Sunset Homes Sold in August*

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3438 Taraval St.	1	2	1,062	1,039,000
2551 28th Ave.	3	2	1,390	1,220,000
2331 38th Ave.	3	2	1,155	1,318,000
741 Pacheco St.	3	2	1,417	1,350,000
2231 34th Ave.	3	2	1,655	1,400,000
1728 11th Ave.	2	1	1,439	1,430,000
1211 39th Ave.	5	5	3,292	2,777,888
1864-Ninth Ave.	5	4.5	3,567	3,400,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

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Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

Murder Charges for Fentanyl Dealers

Words of wisdom include the observation that a criminal doesn't care who makes the laws of this country so long as they are not enforced.

After declining from 54 in June, 71 people died of overdoses in July from fentanyl and "Tranq." ABC News reported that the California Highway Patrol seized last month enough fentanyl in the Tenderloin to kill 2.1 million people! With San Francisco Superior Court judges appointed by California's governor, prosecution of fentanyl purveyors arrested by police officers or the CHP constitutes a game of chance in the Hall of Justice. (Local judges are permissive!)

Now, however, some county prosecutors are treating fentanyl deaths as murder. Riverside County's D.A., Mike Hestrin, has prosecuted the most cases in the state, despite the difficulty. Pursuing second-degree murder charges requires prosecutors to persuade all 12 jurors that the defendant dealer was aware fentanyl would kill the victim. Hestrin declared, "Just the change in attitude of 'We're going to look at this as a homicide investigation' has made all the difference."

San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego, Kern and Fresno counties are now also attacking fentanyl death cases as second-degree murder. Los Angeles, the largest county in California, naturally doesn't. Why not? Because George Gascón is the district attorney who, like recalled S.F. prosecutor Chesa Boudin, portrays the "system" at fault, not the criminal suppliers of the deadly drug.

I'm pleased our capable district attorney, Brooke Jenkins, Esq., stated last fall her office will prosecute drug dealers of fentanyl for murders, sending such an unmistakable message to local judges and San Franciscans. Placer County's D.A. achieved the first murder conviction of a fentanyl dealer in California – a 21-year-old man who supplied it to a 15-year-old Roseville girl. Sacramento County's new chief prosecutor last month also filed a second-degree murder accusation against a 44-year-old man for supplying the deadly drug to a 24-year-old woman and a 48-year-old husband who gave it to his wife, resulting in her death. District Attorney Thien Ho has created a Fentanyl Response Team to pursue such murder cases. The first prosecutor to charge murder from fentanyl in 2022 and secured a conviction this past July. Two more such cases await trial in Auburn.

Speaking of crime in which a majority of Police Commission members try to prevent cops from consequent arrests of perpetrators (more next month), have you heard about the two former Lululemon employees who were fired by the apparel giant in Georgia last June for violating company policy by attempting to stop three masked criminals from robbery? Police subsequently charged them with felony robbery.

But only in California could a legislator (Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer of Los Angeles, a Democrat,) introduce a bill inquiring judges to consider race in sentencing a convicted criminal. Assembly Bill 852 deems race part of sentencing guidelines so as "to rectify racial bias." The Assembly passed the bill last May. It now awaits a hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee and action by the whole state Senate by Sept. 14.

The "renaming" brigades are still on the warpath. Oops! Sorry! That word derogates Native Americans like the Onondaga Indians who owned a "reservation" in the county of my Syracuse, N.Y. hometown. Middlebury College in central Vermont renamed its chapel because John Mead, an alumnus, who worked his way through the college after joining the Union Army in 1860 and after the Civil War becoming a medical doctor, then Vermont's governor in 1901, and donated $75,000 to build the chapel, requesting it to be named Mead Memorial Chapel to honor his family. In 2021, however, the Vermont legislature passed a resolution apologizing to the victims of such state-sanctioned sterilization some 100 years before, which arose from a national legislative movement to stop the effect of crime and cure other people with disabilities considered unacceptable to society. Then-Gov. Mead supported such sterilization and prohibition of marriage licenses. Other Americans favored eugenics (improvement of the human race by controlling human mating) in order to ensure humans of desirable character. Later, Vermont enacted a law aimed at disabled, poor and indigenous residents which led to sterilization of approximately 250 Vermonters.

Guess what? Last May, Gov. Mead's estate sued Middlebury College for breach of contract in a 79-page complaint in Vermont Superior Court for removing Mead's name. Estate representatives blame Middlebury's adoption of "presentism" which means judging historical figures "by current standards." It's the "cancel culture." The case is still pending with a fall trial date.

It's another example of the observation: "History tells us about presidential candidates splitting nails; but modern politicians keep busy splitting hairs."

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

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Richmond Review

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a Patreon campaign. Patreon is similar to GoFundMe, except sponsors donate a little each month rather than one lump sum. The goal is to sustain the papers' service to the community with the support of readers and donors.

The change in ownership led to some other changes for the paper as well. With the help of Durand, Kozakiewicz launched the Richmond Review website – RichmondSunsetNews.com – in 2019. This helped the paper keep up with the digitalization of modern newspapers. It has also led to a substantial growth in online readership. The website alone averages more than 20,000 views a month, up from 4,000 a month in 2019.

"We knew that it was the future, so I worked with Michael to get the website up and running," Kozakiewicz said.

Durand said he has benefitted greatly by having Kozakiewicz and an advisor and editor.

"Paul and I edit the final copy the days the papers go to the printer," Durand said. "His institutional knowledge is very deep and his eye for even the most minor mistakes has sharpened over the last 35 years."

Durand said that he is very inspired by the feedback of readers.

"We recently asked our readers for some financial support, and the response was heartwarming," he said. "The notes from readers telling us how much they love the papers is incredibly motivating. It's very hard work keeping the papers going, but the gratitude and the love we get back from our community makes all the effort worthwhile."

Durand is also enthusiastic about the Patreon campaign.

"With the help of our community, we hope to sustain the papers well into the future," he said.

Durand recently launched the Patreon Businesses campaign, which offers affordable rates and an opportunity to have businesses listed in every issue of the papers to let the community know they are helping keep the beloved newspapers alive. Information about tiered sponsorship opportunities is detailed on the website.

Durand said he sees his job as helping San Francisco's west side in many ways.

"We aim to inform our readers about what's happening in the neighborhood; to bring them feature stories about our exemplary neighbors; giving local residents a platform to share their ideas and opinions; and to help small businesses with affordable advertising opportunities," Durand said.

Kozakiewicz echoed the mission.

"Serving the community, that's what it's all about," he said.

To read previously published stories, find web-only content or learn more about the Richmond Review's and Sunset Beacon's Patreon accounts, go to RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Michael Durand bought the newspapers four-and-a-half years ago. He is the editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. *Photo by Owen Khan.*

Outside Lands 2023 Photos

Find three albums of photos at RichmondSunsetNews.com

Photo by Michael Durand.

Photo by Tyrone Bartoli.

Photo by Tyrone Bartoli.

Photos (above and below) courtesy of Alive Coverage.

Photo by Alyson Wong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN H.S. CAR SHOW

The Abraham Lincoln High School Alumni Association will be hosting its seventh annual car show on Saturday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot on 22nd Avenue between Quintara and Rivera streets. Free admission for spectators Food and vendors on site. Information and registration: lincolnalumni.com/car-show.

BOOK RELEASE PARTY FOR 'GOLDEN GATE GARDENING'

Celebrate the fourth edition (30th anniversary) of this classic and delightfully helpful book for gardeners in our region at a party on September 23, 2-4 p.m., at the Garden for the Environment, Seventh Avenue at Lawton Street. There will be light refreshments and a free raffle of three copies of the book. The author, Pam Peirce, will sign copies purchased. For more information, see gardenfortheenvironment.org.

BRIDGE LESSONS

All levels of bridge players are welcome. Beginners: Fridays, Sept. 18-Nov. 17. Intermediate: Wednesdays, Sept. 16-Nov 15. Each series costs $100; the first lesson is free. Each lesson runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Lessons held in a facility on Brotherhood Way. For experienced players, open game Wednesdays starts at noon. For more info., email Tom at tjsbridge@gmail.com.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

The Children's Book Project is a San Francisco-based nonprofit that provides free books for children and youth living in economically vulnerable communities to help improve literacy and close the achievement gap. You can help create equitable access to books by donating new or gently used books that your children have outgrown. If you have good condition books to donate, our Book Bank is open by appointment at 2166 Palou St., or find a local book drop at childrensbookproject.org.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stance on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

DRAMA WITH FRIENDS

Drama With Friends is a free ZOOM THEATRE. Want to act? Join a troupe of older actors looking to expand our acting pool. We present short plays by local playwrights every third Monday night of the month followed by a Q&A with the playwright. Prospective actors need to set aside time for two or three one-hour rehearsals a month. Want to join the audience? You're welcome too. Check out the Community Living Campaign for further information (sfcommunityliving.org/event/dwf) or write judygoddess@gmail.com.

FALL EQUINOX INNER SUNSET ART WALK

Let's celebrate FALL EQUINOX while supporting and enjoying local art and businesses! Join your neighbors and friends on an art walk celebrating the season, local art and the Inner Sunset community. Participating galleries and businesses will offer something to sip and/or special seasonal promotions to take advantage of and enjoy while you shop and connect with neighbors. RSVP to get updates and a link to the Google map of participating businesses. If you prefer a paper map, you can pick one up at any of the participating businesses. Irivng Street, between Sixth and 17th avenues. Friday, Sept. 22, 5-8 p.m. Free with RSVP. Learn more and RSVP at huntandgathersf.com/fall-equinox-inner-sunset-art-walk/.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. One-on-one session in English. Friday, Sept. 22, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Ortega Library, 3223 Ortega St. Drop-in for one-on-one session in English. For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

FLOWER PIANO

Flower Piano will again transform the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden gate Park into the City's own alfresco concert hall in September where everyone is invited to play and listen. Participants are invited to explore the Botanical Garden's global living plant collections as they seek out the 12 pianos spread out across the 55-acre living museum. At each of the pianos, there will be scheduled professional and community partner performances as well as ample open play time for anyone to sit down and play – reflecting a range of genres, ages and cultures. Spontaneous community music-making around the pianos during unscheduled times are often cited as favorite moments among Flower Piano attendees. Complete program and ticket links can be found at sfbg.org/flowerpiano.

FREE ADAPTIVE BIKE PROGRAM

Serving people with disabilities in SF parks, the free Adaptive Bike Program is presented by a partnership between SF Rec. and Park, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) and SF Municipal Transportation Agency. Ride an adaptive bike in two lovely locations either in Golden Gate Park (every first and third Saturday) or on The Great Highway (every second and fourth Saturday). Reservations are required (limited availability on some bikes). To reserve a bike, contact BORP Cycling Center at 510-848-2930 or e-mail at cycling@borp.org by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the event.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy September birthday to Mariamane Akopyan, Peg Anderson, Julien Calfayan, Cody Davis, Julie De Lorenzo, Mimi and Zozo D., Wendy Durand, Gary E., Harry Fong, Kelvin Gee, Taylor Gee, Carolyn Glaser, David Heller, Lawrence Helman, Steven Hom, Robin Huey, Paula Karolak, Sue Kolb, Hailey Jade Kozakiewicz, Lillian Lippold, Nicole Meldahl, Thea Mazzalai Nguyen, Danny Saiz, triplets Caroline, Daniel and Max Salvatore, Hannah Schmidt, Rick Sill, Joey Villanueva, Pandora Wong and Cliff Yee. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

INNER SUNSET 2023 FREE FIX-IT FAIR WEEKEND

We'll try to fix anything – except electronics and relations – for free. Yes, for free. No hidden charges, no fees, no gobbledegook. Bring your wobbly, chipped, loose, broken, frayed, splintered, torn, cracked or severed item. If we can't fix it, we'll give you twice your money back. Please bring repair supplies, if possible. 502 Irving at Sixth Ave., Sept. 23 and 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (last item taken in at 3 p.m.) Volunteers welcome: please call Barbara: 415-246-4748, or email barbara@barbara.com.

OUTER SUNSET FARMERS MARKET AND MERCANTILE

Join us every Sunday at the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile, where you can find fresh produce from local farmers and ranchers, enjoy delicious dishes from Outer Sunset eateries and discover unique finds from local makers and artisans. Every Sunday, find a revolving series of live performers, engaging activities and exhibitions at the ArtShip and fun zone! Our farmers market accepts WIC, EBT and Market Match! 37th Avenue at Ortega Street, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Go to sunsetmercantilesf.com or call 415-465-2475 for more details.

'PHOTOS OF THE MONTH' ONLINE GALLERY

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages more than 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs, 150 dpi, six inches wide. If you don't know how to size your photos, we can help. While there is no compensation for the submissions, we are planning on awarding a gift to the best photo of the month in the near future. Please submit on or near the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Cleanups in the Sunset District:

Sunday, Sept. 10, 1–3 p.m., Great Highway Park Cleanup , mobilize.us/togethersf/event/448138/.

Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.–noon, Central Sunset Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/546732/.

SECONDHAND SATURDAYS

Come check out Secondhand Saturdays and celebrate all things vintage, antique and secondhand. Presented by Sunset Mercantile every third Saturday of the month at Ortega Street and 32nd Avenue, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shop local from more than 50 vintage vendors, makers and artisans that are some of the Bay Area's best. Enjoy live music, family friendly activities, food trucks, rotating monthly features and more! Visit sunsetmercantilesf.com/secondhand/ for more information.

SENIOR NEEDS A HOME

Senior lady, quiet, with references, needs a place to live at a private residence in the west area of San Francisco. Having arthiritis, she avoids flights of steps and hills. Uses public transportation. Call 415-561-9275 if you or someone you know can provide her a home.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

SUNSET NIGHT MARKET

Come eat, drink, shop, play, connect and be local at the first-ever Sunset Night Market featuring delicious food, local art, "Taste of Irving" food tours (tix on Eventbrite), live music on three stages, dance performances and a dance party at 8:30 p.m. at 21st Avenue. Enjoy exciting games with prizes and fun activities for ALL ages in celebration of our vibrant and culturally-rich Sunset District, all surrounded by the unique shops and eateries of Irving Street. Festivities kick off at 5 p.m. at the 23rd Avenue stage with inspiring words from SF Mayor London Breed and District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio, as well as a cooking demo from Chef Martin Yan. Fundraiser/paid parking available nearby at Jefferson Elementary. This is a non-smoking event. Irving Street from 20th to 23rd avenues. Friday, Sept. 15, 5-10 p.m. Learn more sunsetmercantilesf.com.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the Sunset Beacon readers who generously donated to the Nourish Your Neighborhood Newspaper campaign. Your contribution helped keep us financially healthy. If you donated before we started our Patreon campaign and would like some of our Sunset Beacon branded products (tote bag, pens, coffee mug, hat or shirt), please send an email to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. We would also like to share just your name in the paper to thank you. Please let us know if that is OK. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign, send a check to: Sunset Beacon, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116 or send via PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Thank you!

WRITING AND EDITING SERVICE

I am a California licensed attorney who is able to help with many of your writing, editing, and proofreading needs. I can assist with reports, proposals, professional applications, books, resumes and cover letters. I have 25 years of government experience and a 12-year human resources and recruiting background. Recently, I edited a manuscript for one author and provide ongoing editorial support to another. I welcome large and small projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns or feedback. Email: writerseditors17@gmail.com or call/text 415-407-7328. I look forward to working with you.

Announcements: $1 per word, 20-word minimum. Share birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or submit free community events at no charge.

FREE: There is no charge for occasional announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Announcements will run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,000 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (more than 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 20th of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116. Call 415-706-6428 or email editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

Look for us on Facebook: SF Sunset Beacon
Follow us on Instagram: RichmondSunsetNews
Visit our website: RichmondSunsetNews.com

Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Celebrate the Autumn Moon

Schools are back in session, signaling that summer is winding down. The change in seasons is noted in a variety of ways. On the west side, fall means it's time for the Richmond District Autumn Moon Festival – 2023 marks this event's seventh year and its success is a testament to how important this is to the community.

Please join me and District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan as we host this year's festivities on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booths, entertainment, delicious food and more will line Clement Street between Seventh and 10th avenues.

Because it is the Year of the Rabbit, there will be a bunny contest, too. Do you have one? Please bring your beloved pet and compete for prizes. Categories include Best in Show, Most Talented, Best Costume and the Bunny/Pet Owner who look the most alike. I can't wait to see the winners.

I also invite you to stop by my office's booth. My staff will be there to answer questions and provide information on how state government can serve you. We'll have an update on my legislative accomplishments and information on resources, like mental health, food security and housing.

Our celebration is deeply rooted in Asia's Mid-Autumn Festival. The Chinese have been celebrating the autumn harvest's full moon since the Shang Dynasty in the second millennium B.C., and the tradition has spread throughout other countries in Southeast Asia. It's seen as a time to reflect on the bounty of the summer harvest, the fullness of the moon and the myth of the immortal moon goddess Chang-O.

The Zhuang people of southern China, the largest minority in the country, share an ancient fable of how the sun and the moon are a couple and the stars are their children. The moon's pregnancy makes it round, and it becomes a crescent after giving birth.

The Autumn Moon holiday is often considered a "Chinese Thanksgiving" because gratitude and the inclusion of food – including the popular moon cake – lie at the center of these celebrations.

For years here in San Francisco, the celebration was held in Chinatown. My staff worked with local groups and leaders to bring autumn moon festivals to our side of the City, including the Sunset – neighborhoods that many Chinese and other Asian communities who celebrate this holiday call home. Community Youth Center, Richmond Neighborhood Center and the Clement Street Merchants Association deserve much of the credit for leading the charge. Today, it's gratifying to see how this event has grown into a thriving destination.

I additionally want to acknowledge our sponsors whose monetary donations help us with expenses associated with the festival, as well as our media sponsors who spread the word about this event. And, of course, the invaluable support from numerous allies and volunteers are worth recognizing.

I hope you will join us on Sept. 9 for a fun, family-friendly event that will showcase the cultural diversity of the west side. Note: the festival is accessible by Muni bus routes 1, 28, 38, 38R and 43.

See you there!

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

We are opposed to holding the post-Outside Lands (OSL) concert in Golden Gate Park (GGP). The post-OSL concert may be fun for the privileged few who can afford the tickets, but for the residents of the Sunset and Richmond districts, the neighbors of GGP, it's no fun at all.

Another week of noise, blocked roads, traffic, litter and disruption is added to the five weeks Another Planet Entertainment (APE) is already occupying our neighborhood.

APE has not told us the truth. Rec. and Park has not told us the truth. They claim that OSL is only for two weeks. On July 14, fully one month before the beginning of OSL, they were already working in the area of the Polo Field, turning GGP into a construction zone.

On July 14, Kay, a teacher who lives in the Sunset, reported: "It's the incessant beeping of the heavy equipment that pollutes the park's environment. I'm usually in the park twice a day during the summer: first, for a run, and later, for a walk with my aging dog. The beeping is pretty much non-stop."

July 14 to Aug. 13 is four weeks; add another week for the proposed concert and another week before OSL is fully out of the Park. That's six weeks APE is proposing to appropriate our Park.

APE Executive Vice-President Allen Scott, said of OSL "… we know it's a disruption. We hope that people see it for the greater good and not just about their personal routines."

Are the personal routines of people in the Marina, Pacific Heights, Seacliff, Forrest Hill, St. Francis Wood or Presidio Heights, being disrupted? Why should the Sunset and Richmond be faced with traffic congestion, noise and disruption every year? Why not have the post-OSL concert on the Marina Green, Crissy Field or in McLaren Park and give those parts of the city a chance to contribute to the greater good?

GGP belongs to the residents of San Francisco and should always be accessible, open and free. It was designed to be, and always has been, a public park. Keeping our parks open should be the first priority of Rec. and Park. Why should we award APE a permit for a post-OSL concert when they have not been honest and have failed to abide by the terms they agreed to for OSL?

"Permittee shall promptly, at its sole cost and expense, repair any and all damage to the Premise" – Use Permit for Outside Lands, dated April 1, 2009.

"… to conserve resources over the remaining term of the Permit and to prevent future damage and delays, Permittee has offered to complete a project valued at approximately $400,000 to replace the far western turf areas of the Polo fields with decomposed granite and … reinforced concrete." – Addendum to the Original Permit, dated May 20, 2022

What could be more damaging to a grass field than pouring concrete on it? It is clear that Outside Lands damages Golden Gate Park and APE has not honored its agreement to repair any damage to the Park. Now, people can tell their children and grandchildren, the Polo Field was passed down for generations as a beautiful meadow and playing field and we now bequeath you this massive slab of concrete as part of it.

APE has reneged on its agreement and violated both the spirit and the letter of its contract with the City and should not be trusted with a post-OSL concert.

David Romano and Judy Pell

Editor:

Thanks kindly to your fine paper and reporter Thomas Pendergast for the critically important article detailing the insufficient funds for building our community's water pipeline system to properly manage westside fire risks. The reporting was top-notch, and effectively highlighted the ongoing and significant risk issue for our community, and also the need to get things done – pronto.

We've all known for a while that the next natural disaster could create some serious issues – from road management, to suspect water pressure, to silent warning sirens that have been indefinitely deactivated, to insufficiently staffed police and firefighter resources. Given this obvious framework, it is particularly concerning that the fiscal

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Police Blotter

Robbery: 2300 Block of Noriega Street, July 27, 8:01 a.m.

The suspect, with a known history of shoplifting, walked out of a store with a basket of merchandise. The victim confronted the suspect and the suspect responded by pushing the victim away.

Responding officers located the suspect and detained them, despite the suspect resisting and causing injuries to one of the officers.

The suspect was arrested.

Evading Police: Ulloa Street and 19th Avenue, July 29, 7:35 p.m.

While on patrol, officers encountered a vehicle which immediately fled at a high and unsafe rate of speed.

Later, the officers located the same vehicle. A computer check revealed the license plate had been stolen and did not belong to the vehicle.

The officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop, but the vehicle again fled at a high rate of speed while running red lights and cutting off multiple drivers.

Carjacking, Assault with Gun: 3900 Block of Kirkham Street, Aug. 4, 3:33 a.m.

The victim stated they had been sitting in their vehicle for a while before the suspect approached them. The suspect then shot at the victim's legs, pulled the victim out of the vehicle and drove away in it.

Robbery: 1700 Block of 26th Avenue, Aug. 5, 6:20 a.m.

The victims said they invited two suspects to their house. While there, the suspects stole the victims' cell phones.

When confronted, the suspects pepper sprayed the victims before fleeing the area.

Responding officers located the suspects and, after further investigation, the suspects were arrested.

Battery: 400 Block of Taraval Street, Aug. 9, 6:31 a.m.

The victim said he was riding his bicycle when a driver honked at him. The driver then pulled up next to the victim and yelled him.

Shortly afterwards, the suspect exited their vehicle and punched the victim before leaving the area.

Robbery: 1700 Block of Ninth Avenue, Aug. 10, 8:37 a.m.

The victim said they were retrieving their backpack from their vehicle when the suspect walked up to them, used a pipe to break the vehicle's window and pulled the backpack off the victim's shoulder.

The suspect then fled the area.

Assault: 2300 Block of 42nd Avenue, Aug. 10, 12:32 p.m.

The victim, a parking enforcement officer, said they had just issued a citation and was driving away when the truck that had been issued the citation cut in front of them. The suspect's vehicle stopped and blocked the victim's vehicle before the suspect exited and attempted to punch the victim.

The suspect did not make contact with the victim but shattered the vehicle's front window.

The suspect then fled the scene.

Theft, Possession of Stolen Property: 46th Avenue and Wawona Street, Aug. 10, 1:27 a.m.

The victim said they fell asleep on a Muni vehicle and woke up to find their property missing.

The Muni driver reported that they had only observed two other passengers on the bus at that time, and one of the passengers was moving around next to the victim.

Dispatch notified the officers that the suspect had been seen on another bus near 15th and Noe streets.

Responding officers located and detained the suspect.

After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Threats, Vandalism: 1600 Block of 39th Avenue, Aug. 13, 8:35 p.m.

The victim reported their neighbor, the suspect, had been threatening them and breaking their property.

Responding officers located the suspect. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Discharging a Firearm: 1400 Block of 19th Avenue, Aug. 13, 8:55 p.m.

Officers responded to a report that shots had been fired.

Responding officers located fired cartridges in the area. They retrieved video from nearby surveillance cameras and detained two people.

Burglary: 1700 Block of 11th Avenue, Aug. 16, 8:39 p.m.

The victim reported that they had heard footsteps in a vacant part of their house.

Responding officers conducted a search and found signs of items having been recently moved or missing. A neighbor then exited their building and reported that someone was in the back area of their home.

The officers detained the suspect. A search revealed multiple bags full of the victims' belongings in their possession.

After further investigation, it was determined that a second suspect had already fled the area.

The first suspect was arrested.

Melissa Zhuo
Realtor® | DRE 02039357
melissazhuo@compass.com
compass.com/agents/melissa-zhuo

As a Sunset neighbor, I would love to help you with any of your real estate needs. Contact me today at 415-238-6087 or melissazhuo@compass.com. I speak Cantonese, English, Hakka, Mandarin and Spanish.

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Barbary Coast Cyclery

Continued from page 1

Cook's estate in April 2023.

The new name, which appears in ornate gold lettering on its plate glass window, evokes San Francisco's colorful history. It is also an homage to rumors Didescu heard that the space was once a speakeasy, and to the shop's own long history in the City.

Nomad Cyclery opened at 2301 Irving St. in 1969, and was there until 1997, when it moved to 2555 Irving St. That space had previously been occupied by Sunset Stereo, Didescu said, and before that, a grocery store (city directories from 1953 through 1960 list the 27th and Irving Market at that address, and the 1940 San Francisco House and Street Directory places Andrew's Market there).

Cook, who had managed the shop since 1982, bought the business on July 4, 1997, from Steve Schroeder, a longtime Sunset District resident. A Quaker from Pennsylvania who participated in anti-Vietnam war protests on the east coast, Cook came to San Francisco in the late 1960s or early '70s because, according to his longtime friend Gordon Clapp, it was "where the '60s were happening."

He was an avid bicyclist who made and sold bicycle saddles and saddle bags to local bike shops, including Nomad Cyclery, before becoming an employee there in the mid 1970s. The shop had a casual, inviting atmosphere then, with jazz from a vintage stereo as the soundtrack for foggy Sunset District mornings, and a custom coffee blend known as "Rocket Fuel" from Alvin's Coffee Shop up the street.

The Nomad Cyclery sign still hangs over the front door of the previous business's successor, Barbary Coast Cyclery. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Cook was a founder of the Fogtown Frenzy Cycling Club, of which Clapp was also a member. "Roger was a very strong rider," Clapp recalled. The club's Sunday rides, which started at Nomad, included "Cook's Folly," a 92-mile route through west Marin into Sonoma County with 7,000 feet of hill climbing.

Cook was old-school in his approach to bicycles, said Didescu, and refused to carry electric bikes despite their rising popularity. Clapp said that for years, "Roger hand-built high-quality wheels for track, racing and touring bikes."

Although Cook could be "a little gruff, he "cared for his bikes and he cared for his customers," said Flo Kimmerling, president of the Mid-Sunset Neighborhood Association, who had known Cook for 45 years.

"Roger knew what to do with any problem," she said. "He was all-purpose. He was the Macy's of bikes." The shop "was almost like a community center. There were always guys there sitting on the stools schmoozing."

The shop's 2022 application for Legacy Business status described how "an open room, and the nature of cycling, fosters a sense of collective shared experience, though not always opinion, which frequently turns to conversation of politics, neighborhood scuttlebutt, and other matters affecting the world at large and small."

Cook, according to Clapp, was "a stubborn guy who didn't like going to doctors." He worked at the shop until the week before his death – which was also when he learned he had cancer. He died on Sept. 14, 2022.

Didescu is excited about reopening the shop with a "new vibe," and continuing to provide high-quality bike sales and service in a neighborhood-oriented shop that is welcoming and unpretentious. He is modernizing the business (Cook was famously against anything modern and was, in Didescu's words, "pen and paper.") The shop offers appointments for repairs, will sell bikes and parts online, and carries (and can service) electric bikes; Didescu currently stocks Yuba and KHS cargo e-bikes that can accommodate up to 220 lbs. of cargo or a passenger, and will be carrying Santa Cruz Bicycle mountain and gravel bikes.

Didescu has also changed the shop's 4,000-square-foot layout to a more open floorplan that will encourage an inviting atmosphere where everyone from a family buying a first bike for their kid to a road-racer will feel welcome.

An East Bay native, Didescu was a 15-year-old BMX enthusiast who hung around a Lafayette bike shop after school every day until the owner hired him by saying, "grab a broom or get out of here."

Opening Barbary Coast Cyclery is the culmination of his 30 years of experience working on bicycles. "I've wanted to own a bike shop since I was in my 20s," he said, "so this is a bit of a dream for me."

Barbary Coast Cyclery is located at 2555 Irving St., on the corner of 27th Avenue. For more information, go to barbarycoastcyclery.com, email Barbarycoastcyclery@gmail.com, follow on Instagram @ BarbaryCoastCyclery or call 415- 742-4672.

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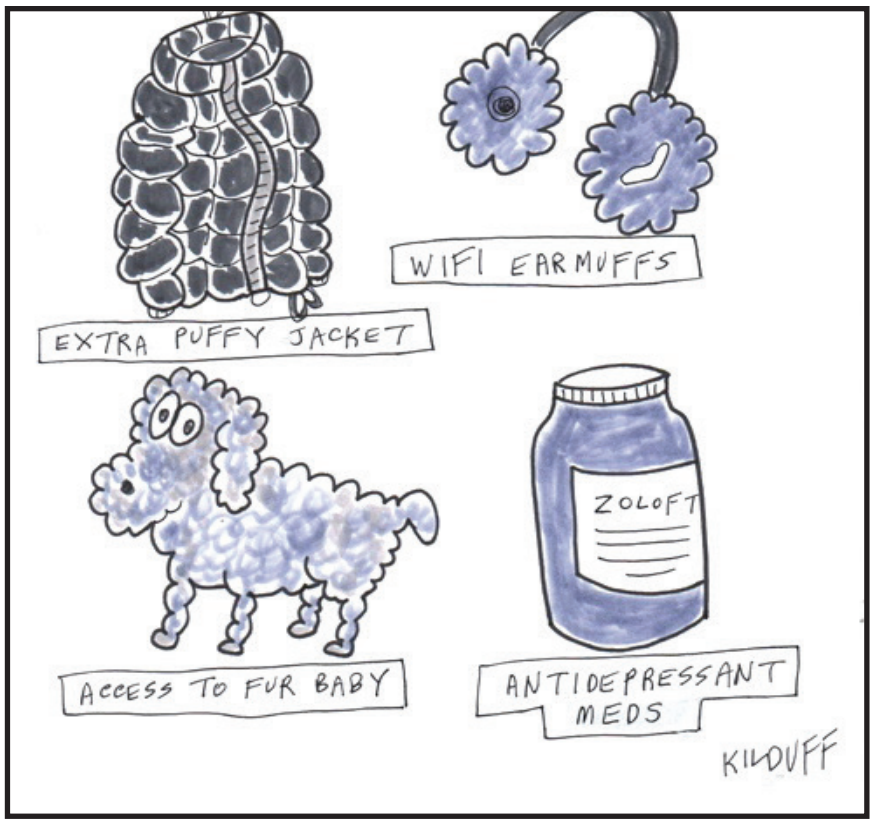
'Then and Now': Fourth Avenue and Irving Street

Left: A streetcar collided with a roofing tar truck on Fourth Avenue and Irving Street, circa 1940. The view is on Fourth Avenue looking south. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.* Right: Parking on the east side of Fourth Avenue changed from parallel to perpendicular and was eliminated on the west side of the street. A building on the UCSF campus is now nestled among the trees seen in the upper left corner of the photo. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Kilduff's Korner

by Paul Kilduff



Progress Hardware

Continued from page 1

hakrishnan. "The folks at Progress have always been the best, especially to our pup who always gets a biscuit! Hope you rebuild quickly so we can continue to support your business for years to come."

Greg Dewar lives in the Sunset and frequently goes to Progress Hardware to have keys made or to pick up items, like a light bulb.

"This is more than a hardware store," Dewar said. "It's an integral part of our neighborhood."

In addition to the extensive smoke damage, Blair will have to deal with the details of rebuilding, including filing paperwork with insurance companies, gathering permits, etc.

Despite the devastating circumstances, Blair and son Randy have faith that the community will help them to reopen.

A crowdfunding campaign has been established at GoFundMe to help with Progress Hardware's restoration effort.

For more information or to donate, go to gofundme.com/firebuild-progress-hardware.

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Local Artist Yukari Sakura's Dinosaur Artwork Featured at Academy of Sciences

By Kate Quach

Splatters of paint flurry across a navy-blue apron. A thin brush slips between fingers and swashes a kaleidoscope of colors on a canvas. With sleeves rolled to her elbows, Yukari Sakura leans close and settles a careful gaze over the page. While her focus never seems to lift, a smile splashes across her face as she sees her art pieces coming to life.

Spikes, claws and stretching long necks. Dinosaurs pose, alive with striking colors, baring jagged sets of teeth and flaunting stripes down their backs. Pointed tails thrash amidst a speckled background while horns splay in every direction. Sakura's vibrant dinosaurs, which once lay still on an art studio workspace, break away from the page and seem to burst through the doors of the California Academy of Sciences.

This summer, the Golden Gate Park museum revealed "The World's Largest Dinosaurs" exhibition, featuring models of towering, prehistoric beasts of the sauropod species. Marveling through the exhibit, open until Jan. 21, 2024, visitors to San Francisco's Academy of Sciences often cast their gazes upwards at the long-necked, herbivorous sauropods.

Visitors' hands hurry to interact with fossil replicas of larger-than-life bones. Their eyes peer into the intricacies of the giants' unique digestive system, and faces brighten in awe of the life-size respiratory and heart networks.

After gazing at the Jurassic creatures looming over their heads, museum guests find themselves in the merchandise store. Here, each shelf and rack is lined with custom items ranging from baby onesies to hoodies to tote bags — all adorned with Sakura's artwork, in full color.

Thirty-three-year-old Sakura, who grew up in the Sunset District, discovered her unshakable love for art when she was just 3 years old. While she experimented in different mediums and paints, a favored focus for her pieces quickly emerged. She loved animals. Trips with her parents to the California Academy of Sciences filled her childhood days as she waved to the butterflies, penguins and fishes with seemingly limitless energy.

But one type of animal loomed above the rest — one which began its last march on the earth 65 million years ago. Dinosaurs became her passion. The long-extinct animals fueled Sakura's fascination. Dinosaur toys romped around her, adventuring through her imagination as she watched "The Land Before Time" films on repeat.

Local artist Yukari Sakura's work adorns a variety of merchandise found in the gift shop at the California Academy of Sciences. Sakura has been fascinated by art since she was 3 years old and has been interested in dinosaurs since her early days visiting the Academy. *Photo by Kate Quach.*

"My experience in the Academy when I was growing up as a child and watching movies about dinosaurs gave me many happy memories," recalled Sakura.

In 2011, after graduating high school through the San Francisco Special Education programs, Sakura found immediate support for her artistic abilities in an organization known as Creativity Explored. Established in 1983, the foundation opened its doors to artists with disabilities, providing opportunities for students to present their artwork in galleries and open for sale. Sakura immersed herself in art, refining her technique while staying true to her sharp perceptiveness of color and fondness for animals. For Sakura, she had Creativity Explored to thank for connecting her work with the California Academy of Sciences.

"The Academy has had a long-standing partnership working with the developmentally disabled community," said Carl Lieber, director of Guest Operations at the Academy. "I think the whole partnership came about through our desire and opportunity to tell a local story and highlight art from within the community."

When Sakura's pieces became the main merchandise feature of The World's Largest Dinosaurs, Lieber recalled a special feeling of enthusiasm rising within himself and his fellow coworkers, who were all captured by the colorful individuality of Sakura's illustration. The Academy's guests have held similar impressions. Since the exhibition's introduction, Lieber has noticed visitors young and old gravitating towards the T-shirts and caps emblazoned with Sakura's art.

Early into the exhibit's opening on May 26, Lieber and staff of the institute embraced Sakura with a welcoming tour. The museum director became filled with emotion watching Sakura's face light up in pure joy when she saw her artwork displayed throughout the store.

"I was trying to hide tears back," Lieber said. "It was just awesome to see somebody realizing their creation is out in the world and seeing others in the public responding to their art."

Back at Creativity Explored, Sakura's mentors were equally as impressed by her capabilities. Laura Figa, a teaching artist at the studio, works one-on-one with artists with disabilities. In the workshop classes, Figa often finds Sakura absorbed in her independent style, researching endangered animal species and crafting paintings based off of her discoveries.

"In her solitary practice, she is independently driven," Figa said.

This drive crystallizes in the messages the artist includes in her work: Sakura's care for animals inspires her to incorporate awareness for endangered species in her pieces.

"By researching the animals and knowing that they need help, we have to protect their habitats," Sakura said.

Peeking over Sakura's shoulder, Figa would ask about the creatures emerging out of brushstrokes and onto her canvas. Sakura, with no hesitation, would share in-depth facts about the subjects of her paintings, from the animal's region of origin to the meanings behind her color choice.

"There's always a story behind each work," Figa said. "Nothing is arbitrary, everything has a background on what she decides to work on."

Telling the story behind each work is no figure of speech. For Francis Kohler, lead teacher in Person-Centered Services at Creativity Explored, the true elements of Sakura's pieces appear once he flips the artwork over. Behind, she fills the blank space with handwritten descriptions of the threatened animal for viewers to read.

Sakura's constant openness to inform others of vulnerable species radiates through her pieces.

"She has this encyclopedic knowledge of which animals are in the endangered category and all the delineations of how these animals are being kept track of," Kohler said.

Navigating through realistic pet portrait commissions to memorial events in U.S. history portrayed through cartoon-style, whimsical mythological creatures, Kohler noted his amazement in Sakura's sweeping realm of artistic abilities. Now, in her work with the Academy's The World's Largest Dinosaurs exhibit, her pieces continue to "stand out from the rest," adds Lieber.

"Through her artistic lens, you're seeing something that didn't exist before," Kohler said. "For Yukari, the sky's the limit."

Yukari Sakura poses with a model of an Argentinosaurus, one of the sources of inspiration for her artwork featured at the California Academy of Sciences. Sakura is sporting a bag with a print of her designs. *Photo by Kate Quach.*

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Press Release

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With Approval to Receive Medicaid Funding, 150-Year-Old Public Hospital Will Continue to Serve City's Most Vulnerable Residents

In a major victory for the City and County of San Francisco, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on Aug. 17 approved Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) for Medicaid recertification, meaning critical Medicaid dollars will continue to flow to the institution.

With more than 95% of LHH's residents relying on Medicaid funding for their care, today's action ensures that LHH will continue to serve San Francisco's most vulnerable residents for generations to come.

Laguna Honda Hospital represents a significant and extensive commitment by San Francisco to publicly fund, a long-term care facility and hospital for those with limited means. Representing more than 30% of all skilled nursing beds in San Francisco, LHH provides safety net healthcare services to hundreds of the City's most vulnerable individuals with complex medical and care needs. There are few facilities in the area capable of caring for these residents, and even fewer that will accept them.

In April 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) terminated LHH's participation in Medicare and Medicaid Provider Program. As a result of the termination, LHH was at risk of closing its doors after 150 years of serving San Francisco's most vulnerable residents. In an agreement that was negotiated by the City Attorney's Office, CMS agreed to continue paying for the care of residents at LHH if the hospital demonstrated the ability to meet all regulatory requirements and make rapid improvements including operational, institutional and cultural changes needed for the long-term success of the hospital.

Since that time, LHH staff made the facility-wide improvements necessary to improve resident care and safety and the significant changes to meet the rigorous regulatory requirements and timelines set by CMS. Based on this progress, LHH applied for recertification into the Medicaid Provider Program on Friday, Aug. 11.

In a letter sent Aug. 17, CDPH and DHCS, which oversee the Medicaid recertification process for CMS, approved the application and granted recertification in the Medicaid Provider Program, restoring certainty to the system that supports LHH residents. The recertification of LHH provides relief to residents and their families who can now be secure about the future of Laguna Honda.

"This is tremendous news for the Laguna Honda Hospital community and the residents and families who rely on this critical facility," said Mayor London Breed. "While this has been a challenging situation to navigate, I always believed that San Francisco would do what it takes to save Laguna Honda.

"I want to thank the Department of Public Health and all the staff at Laguna Honda for working with regulators and meeting the critical objectives set out to keep this hospital open. I also want to thank Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, and all the city and state leaders who have advocated for the hospital over the last year and a half. Finally, I want to thank our state and federal partners for working with us to preserve one of our City's most important public health institutions and one of the largest facilities of its kind in the country. Laguna Honda is a treasured part of San Francisco and I'm so happy that it will remain so for years to come."

"Laguna Honda has long been a pillar of the health and well-being for generations of San Francisco families," Pelosi said. "Achieving Medicaid recertification will ensure that San Franciscans most in need will continue to receive excellent care now and into the future. Today's announcement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the hospital staff and leadership to address areas of concern and to come into full compliance so that Laguna Honda is here to stay."

"By working together, we have been able to resolve a critical situation at Laguna Honda Hospital and a decision that had put hundreds of vulnerable residents at risk and created anxiety and uncertainty for so many families," said David Chiu, San Francisco city attorney. "With recertification, we have preserved this important public health institution and restored an essential safety net for the people of San Francisco. Thank you to our government partners, Laguna Honda staff, the Department of Public Health and many deputy city attorneys for all of the work that led to this wonderful result."

"Everyone at Laguna Honda and many more across the Department of Public Health have been working tirelessly toward this day," said Dr. Grant Colfax, director of health for the City and County of San Francisco. "This is a great moment for our LHH residents and families who are our highest priority. I want to thank the employees of LHH, advocates, our union partners and our local, federal and state partners for working together to ensure San Francisco will continue to operate a world-class skilled nursing facility that will serve as a model for California and the nation."

"The effort over the past 18 months by our team at Laguna Honda — providers, care givers, staff and management — has been exemplary," said Roland Pickens, director and CEO, San Francisco Health Network and executive sponsor, LHH Recertification Incident Command. "Our dedicated staff care deeply about the residents in our care and they have gone above and beyond to make sure Laguna Honda's future is secure."

About Laguna Honda Hospital

For more than 150 years, Laguna Honda has been a pillar of San Francisco's healthcare system, caring for those most in need and providing critical health care services. Laguna Honda serves as a safety net for residents with complex medical needs who are low or very low income and often have no other options for care. Many residents have complicated chronic medical needs along with behavioral health components (such as diagnosed mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders) and other social or behavior issues.

Sloat Highrise

Continued from page 1

limit, that is effectively rezoning, and will have a number of undesirable consequences that conflict with code intent. This could reduce residential density at 2700 Sloat, as well as many other pending and future projects citywide."

But Zoning Administrator Corey Teague, who made the decision, said it conforms just fine with the bulk limits of the Planning Code.

"The plain language of the code says that where the bulk applies, that there are maximum dimensions for that building above that height. And that maximum dimension includes every part of that building above that height. It's very clear that the bulk controls apply to a building and a building that has a podium and a tower," Teague told the Board.

"The Planning Code does not prohibit projects from exceeding their bulk. The Planning Code provides an outlet for any project that wants to do a larger bulk, more mass" Teague said. "It just requires additional approval, typically from the Planning Commission.

"So, this isn't a prohibition from maybe doing multiple towers that exceed your plan dimension. It just means that the base requirement is going to be that one dimension and you can't fit multiple towers in that."

In the end, the Board upheld Teague's interpretation and voted unanimously to deny the appeal. However, in the conversation leading up to that vote, some deeper insights into the City's housing problems were discussed.

"There's lots of inventory available to house people, it's just too expensive, is the bottom line," said Board President Rick Swig. "We could house everybody in the City if the prices of those things weren't so expensive. And that's up to the developer who built them at $1,000 a square foot, that forced their profitability to force rents at an absurdly high level.

"But in reality, the metric is, there's plenty of housing. It's just too bloody expensive and that's what we're stuck with."

But how much do planning codes need to change, or if they do at all, to meet the present housing crisis?

"We're in the midst of a housing emergency in 2023. Should we adjust the core values and the careful planning of this city because we're in a short-term housing emergency that really isn't an emergency, just because housing is too expensive?" Swig said. "Why should we, in the short term, modify the integrity of the City's look and planning situation and its bulk standard just because we're in a short-term housing emergency?"

"I don't think that's what we're doing here," Sarjapur responded. "What we're doing here is maintaining the zoning bulk code as it's been applied the last few decades and not adjusting it, out of concerns of how it may apply to a single project or development moving forward.

"We're applying the zoning code as it has been applied for decades in the past," she said. "The question of availability of housing is above my ability to address at the moment. I think there have been studies showing that underproduction of housing over the past few decades has led to the issue that we're in today. Certainly, the City is pursuing policies directly to produce more housing. There has been significant underproduction of housing in that area of the City."

Commissioner John Trasvina also weighed in on the conversation.

"This is a critically important issue and topic for everyone, every corner of San Francisco," he said. "To me, this is not so much an issue of housing as it is about bulk. The interpretation that the zoning administrator has done, and which I intend to uphold, is about bulk.

"If we are going to solve our housing crisis, and it is a crisis, if we're going to solve it through bulk housing, through towers – whether it's at 19th and Noriega or whether it's at Sloat or any part of San Francisco – then that is a discussion that we have to have, not just in this room but through every room in this City Hall and elsewhere."

Because CH Planning will use the California State Density Bonus program, the new building would include 115 "affordable" units of housing. These units will be offered at 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as calculated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In San Francisco, 100% AMI works out to $97,000 annually for a single person, $110,850 for two people, $124,700 for three and $138,550 for a four-person household.

Photo by Kai. IG: @kai_life_scope.

'PHOTOS OF THE MONTH' ONLINE GALLERY

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs on or near the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

Cooking

Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff

Home-made Berry Jam

I have not bought jams from a grocery store since I moved to California, some 50-plus years ago. And I have raised three children, frequently making them PB&J sandwiches for lunch. Now that the kids are grown, I still enjoy making jams, sometimes for myself or to give them to friends.

Some berries are grown and harvested in California almost year-round. For example, while peak season for strawberries is April through August, they are grown during some winter months in Southern California.

This year, berries are in abundance in Northern California. Great weather conditions for growing produce has led to a plethora of berries this year. The dry warm spring encouraged pollinating bees, wasps and flies at the peak flowering time and the warm summer was perfect for fruit development, with water around to swell the berries. This is why the strawberries are so big, sweet, juicy and delicious this year. So, let us enjoy the bounty of nature by consuming a lot of berries!

Why should we eat more berries? According to a U.S. Dietary Guidelines survey, most Americans do not consume enough fresh produce. The guidelines suggests Americans should double their fruit and vegetable consumption to reduce their risk of chronic disease and maintain a healthy weight.

Berries are among the best fruits to include in your diet. Specifically, strawberries are low in calories and high in fiber content. They are a good source of many vitamins, minerals and plant compounds, which can reduce the bad cholesterol, blood pressure and inflammation and can help in maintaining healthy blood-sugar levels.

July and August are the peak season for harvesting berries, making this month a perfect time for making berry jam. The home-made berry jam is simple and inexpensive to make. The big, sweet strawberries – including the organic ones – have been affordable this year. Let's get together with friends to make some jam.

What berries to use for making jam: Any ripe berries such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries will make a great jam. Make sure to buy them organic. When it comes to buying fruits, avoid the "dirty dozen" which are the conventional fruits and vegetables that are most pesticide-ridden. And conventional strawberries are on top of that list. This year, I have found fresh organic strawberries at a reasonable price at the farmers markets and in grocery stores. After buying the berries, refrigerate them until ready to make the jam.

Just the right weather conditions has led to an abundance of berries in Northern California. *Photos by Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff.*

Ingredients

- 4 cups chopped strawberries
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup lemon or lime juice
- 1 cup sugar

Procedure

Wash the strawberries thoroughly and then cut off the green tops and the center of the top. Chop the berries into small pieces using a knife or in a food processor leaving them coarsely chopped. (It is OK if they get semi-pureed.)

Add the berries, water and lemon juice to a saucepan with a thick bottom. (Do not use a cast iron pot.) Start cooking over moderate heat uncovered. In a few minutes, it will start simmering and some foam will float to the surface. You can remove the foam using a spoon (if it bothers you) but it will go away at the end anyway. After simmering the berries for 10 to 12 minutes, add the sugar and stir with a wooden spoon.

Next, lower the heat to medium/low and cook the mixture for about 15-20 minutes, stirring as necessary. The mixture will start to thicken and look shiny and glazed. Cook for a few more minutes until it looks like a jam (reaching 220 degrees F.) stirring frequently, so that it does not stick to the bottom or burn. Turn off the heat and then place into a stainless-steel bowl. While the jam is still warm, transfer it to clean glass jars. After the jam has cooled, you can refrigerate it. The jam will keep for several weeks if you refrigerate it after each use.

Using the same recipe, you can make other berry jams using raspberries, blackberries or blueberries, modifying the amount of sugar you use depending on sweetness of the berries. You may have to cook the berries a bit longer or shorter period of time in order to make them into a jam.

I often make a batch of a few jars, as home-made jam makes a great gift!

Recipes by Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff, copyright 2023. Shanta is a Sunset District resident and the author of "Cooking Together" and "Flavors of India," both available at Other Avenues Food Store at 3930 Judah St. Shanta writes recipes and articles on food and nutrition. She also teaches vegetarian and vegan cooking classes and shares recipes via videos on YouTube.

Community Service

Vince Nyuen

The first annual Sunset Showdown Cleanup held on Saturday, Aug. 26 pitted the Inner Sunset Cleanup crew against the Central Sunset Cleanup team in a friendly, but competitive cleanup to see which team could collect the most trash bags.

More than 120 volunteers showed up and each team picked up piece-by-piece all the litter found in their respective neighborhoods.

Volunteers made up a diverse group that included toddlers, students and grandparents. Some were born and raised in San Francisco, while one volunteer had only lived in the San Francisco for one month.

In the end, a total of 140 bags of trash were collected and the Inner Sunset emerged victorious, taking home the Golden GOAT (Greatest of All Time) Trophy. Afterward, volunteers enjoyed pizza from Pasquale's and SF Hole in the Wall Pizza, while building community.

It's important to continue to show care for the Sunset and everyone is welcome to join the regular cleanups to lend a hand.

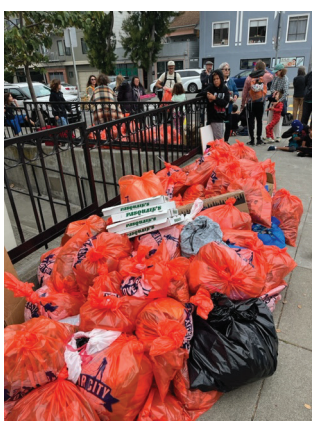
The Inner Sunset Cleanup, led by Annie and supported by the Inner Sunset Merchants Association and Avenue Greenlight, meet in front of One Medical at Irving Street and 10th Avenue.

The Central Sunset Cleanup, led by Leyla and supported by the Mid-Sunset Neighborhood Association, meets in front of Uncle Benny's Donut and Bagel at Irving Street and 22nd Avenue.

You can find the upcoming schedule on the Refuse Refuse Cleanups page at refuserefusesf.org/cleanups.

Vince Nyuen is the founder and lead organizer. He can be reached at info@refuserefusesf.org.

Community service volunteers helped clean up the Inner and Central Sunset districts as part of the inaugural Sunset Showdown Cleanup on Aug. 26. Below: Organizers (L-R) Vince Nyuen, Annie Tahtinen and Layla Alieva. Inset: the Golden Goat trophy. *Photos courtesy of Refuse Refuse*.



Sunset District Artist Explores a Vast Array of Artistic Styles and Mediums

By Judith Kahn

Artist Michaele Ignon said being surrounded by and engaging with other artists, such as through San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA), exchanging thoughts and techniques, is an experience she counts as an integral part of her personal evolution.

Ignon's art education is extensive and includes many diverse mediums. On her Pinterest account, she self-describes, "My background is in art, fashion, costuming, set design, fabric design and whatever else I love to do."

She grew up in the Coachella Valley, about 25 miles from Palm Springs.

"I eventually moved to Santa Barbara for high school. I was there until I was 25, then moved to Los Angeles."

She attended Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC). It was there that she attended a two-year fashion design program, followed by a jump into the film industry, working with Robert Altman through his art director.

At a break in her colorful career, in a moment where she was looking around for what was next, Ignon moved to Paris with $800 in her pocket.

"I didn't come back for 13 years," she said.

While in Paris, in 1991, she attended AFIDE e-learning providers, where she studied 3D, animation and took some computer classes.

On returning to the U.S., she spent a few years living in Ojai, California to be near her mother. During this time, she attended classes in computer graphics and advertising at Ventura College, learning PageMaker, Illustrator and Photoshop.

"While there, I won two Addy Awards in March of '97 for brochure and logo design," Ignon said.

She moved to San Francisco in 2011, where she feels "so at home." Most recently, she spent two years earning a photography certificate at City College of San Francisco (CCSF). She then spent four years in the CCSF arts program, which included three drawing classes, design, painting 1 and 2, and fabric design, finishing in 2022.

Ignon lives in the Sunset District.

"I have continually taken workshops with favored artists here and around the Bay Area and never ending on line and YouTube classes," Ignon said. "I just never want to stop learning. I have an endless curiosity for all things creative."

Ignon's artwork has been exhibited at SFWA Gallery, where three of her works were recently part of "Embracing Nature," running through May of this year. She had two pieces in a group show there, "Black, White and Shades in Between," and another show including her photography in July, called "Reflections." Of SFWA, she says. "It is my home away from home. Artists don't thrive without community. I feel so lucky to be included."

She has also shown her work in The Drawing Room: Clement Street, and just finished the show "Art and Cultures of the World" at the Marin Society of Artists Gallery, where her piece "The Golden Eye" received an honorable mention. Her art has appeared in "Art of the Community" in Benicia, "Fake It," a group show at Blue Line Arts in Roseville, and "Quiet," a group show at Gallery Obscura, here in SF.

When drawing, Ignon favors listening to the music of Erik Satie. She also relies on Pandora, the streaming music service where the listener can choose to listen exclusively to a genre or type of music that they like. In her case, she seeks out the music one might hear in a French bistro or cafe. When not actively making art, Ignon enjoys walking around the Golden Gate Park's Botanical Garden and loves to travel, particularly to Mexico, Paris and Venice.

Ignon hardly knows where to begin on which artists have most informed her work.

Since seeing an exhibit of his work in 1968, Henri Matisse has stood out and inspired her for "his joyful colors and his simplified and lyrical forms,"

Michaele Ignon is a Sunset District-based artist who has explored the world and creates many types and styles of art. ***Courtesy photo.***

which always bring her a sense of happiness. Ignon admires Picasso's work for his prolific and varied styles, which suggest to her "a restless spirit and an endless curiosity," a sensibility she can relate to.

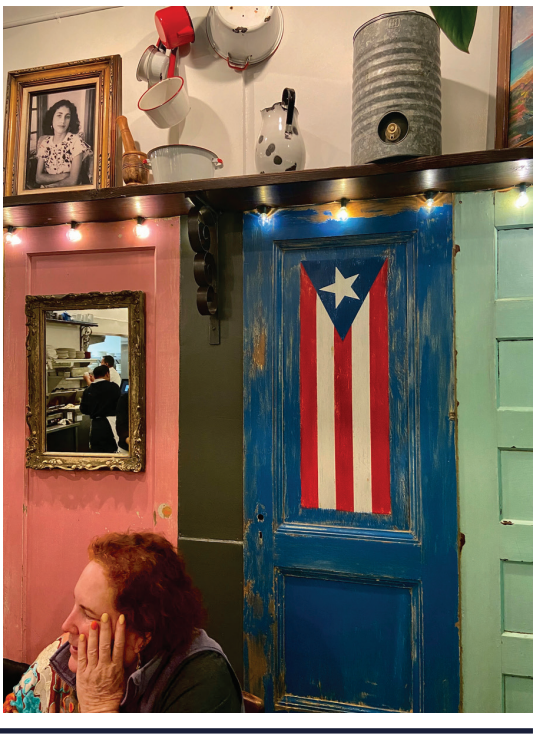
She likes the work of Ed Moses for the same reason, noting that he was "ever on the move to evolve up until two weeks before his death, working every day." She admires Gustav Klimt, whom she considers "a true art warrior," for his elegant use of decorative pattern and rich and sumptuous color and form.

Although working in many mediums and always trying new techniques and experimentation, her most established technique is one where she spends time doing many monoprints, working with stencils, doing varied prints with a gel plate and focusing on specific palettes.

"After about a week, I settle on a design which I draw onto a prepared canvas," she said. "Then I work with collage papers to create the design I envision and collage them on to the substrate."

She often adds acrylic paint and sands back into them, creating layers, and sanding again.

To see examples of Ignon's work, go to the SFWA website, sfwomenartists.org, or look her up on Facebook and Instagram. She can be contacted directly at michaele.ignon@gmail.com.



Left: "Market Street-Elisa." Above: "The World in Ones and Zeros." Right: "Sol Food – Diane." ***Images courtesy of Michaele Ignon.***

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 8

mismanagement related to these issues seems more and more acute as each successive budget is passed by downtown interests who seemingly lack the foresight, insight, or concern to prioritize the safety of westside residents.

Folks have reached a limit, and want clear answers rather than excuses from city agencies. I'm glad to see Connie Chan asking tough questions, and I imagine we'll see Joel Engardio following suit shortly. It's simply not acceptable for our community to be exposed to unmitigated dangers from poor management, especially as we all know that the odds of an earthquake or tsunami in the future are by definition set at exactly 100%. With the main variable being size rather than occurrence, are we truly ready, or just subjected to feeble leadership and misguided fiscal decisions from so-called public servants who have yet to appreciate the possible magnitude of the problem? Chance favors the prepared. If there are public servants who are disillusioned into believing that this preparation comes free of charge then they should be identified and removed, immediately.

Geoffrey Moore

Editor:

I'm in the East Bay, but I enjoy visiting Ocean Beach frequently.

I'm horrified by the frequent fires there and the resulting air pollution. Also the loose dogs in the Snowy Plover preserve. Do people in the neighborhood care about these things? What can be done?

R. De Carlo

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